



# News Release

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Cooperating with Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
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## **DROUGHT REDUCES KENTUCKY'S CROP PRODUCTION IN 2010**

Kentucky's 2010 crop production levels were below 2009 for all major crops according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Several major storms early in the growing season caused some flooding while July and August brought unusual heat and drought. The summer heat dried up pastures and matured crops quickly, reducing yield potential.

**Corn** for grain production by **Kentucky** farmers was estimated at 153 million bushels, down 20 percent from the 2009 crop. Yield was estimated at 124 bushels per acre, down 41 bushels from last year's record high level. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 1.23 million acres, up 80,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** corn for grain production was estimated at 12.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast, and 5 percent below the record high production of 13.1 billion bushels set in 2009. The average yield was estimated at 152.8 bushels per acre. This was down 1.5 bushels from the November forecast and 11.9 bushels below the record high yield of 164.7 bushels per acre set in 2009.

**Kentucky soybean** production was estimated at 47.3 million bushels, 31 percent below the 2009 crop. Production fell from the 2009 record high as harvested acreage decreased and drought reduced the average yield. Yield was estimated at 34 bushels per acre, 14 bushels below the record high 48 bushels per acre recorded in 2009. Acreage harvested for beans was estimated at 1.39 million acres, down 30,000 acres from the 2009 record high. **U.S.** soybean production in 2010 totaled 3.33 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and down 1 percent from 2009. Production was the largest on record. The average yield per acre was estimated at 43.5 bushels, 0.4 bushel below the November 1 forecast and 0.5 bushel below last year's record high yield.

**Kentucky burley** tobacco production was estimated at 140 million pounds, down 13 percent from the 2009 crop. Yield was estimated at 1,950 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from the previous year. Harvested acreage was estimated at 72,000 acres, 3,000 acres below the previous year. Production in the **burley producing states** totaled 188 million pounds in 2010, 13 percent below last year. Kentucky produced 75 percent of the U.S. production. Yields averaged 1,922 pounds per acre, 187 pounds below a year ago.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco totaled 29.0 million pounds, down 9 percent from a year ago. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production was 12.3 million pounds, 11 percent below the 2009 crop of 13.8 million pounds. Dark tobacco acreage declined 4 percent from 2009.

**Kentucky alfalfa hay** production was estimated at 644,000 tons, down 16 percent from a year earlier. **Other hay** production was estimated at 5.06 million tons, 8 percent below the 2009 level. Combined acreage cut for hay totaled 2.53 million acres. Adequate moisture early in the season allowed for a good first cutting of hay, but lack of moisture during the middle and late summer reduced yields significantly.

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